

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY  
VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES**

San Diego County Veterans Service Office  
5560 Overland Avenue, Suite 310, San Diego CA 92123  
December 13, 2014

Meeting Held at the Veterans Museum and Memorial Center in Balboa Park (VMMC)

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mary Beth Newton, Chair District 1; Michael Robledo, Vice-Chair District 5; Ben Dillingham III, Member-at-Large; Ted Kagan, District 2; John Weaver, District 4; Nancy Owen, Member-at-Large; Wilfred Quintong, Interim VSO, Deputy Director AIS/San Diego County

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Laurie Martell, District 3 (E); Terry Jensen, Member-at-Large (E); William Rodriguez, Member-at-Large (U); Commander, Navy Region Southwest

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Timothy Mathues, Veteran Outreach Coordinator, Human Resources, San Diego County

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Mary Beth Newton called the VAC meeting to order at 9:30 am

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Introductions/Public (3 minutes)**

**4. Approval of Minutes Previous Meeting**

Motion made and seconded to approve prior meeting minutes

**5. Chairman's Report**

**Legislative:**

John Weaver spoke about a measure pending in Congress to address toxic substances, which began with Vietnam Veterans and Agent Orange but has expanded to issues like water contamination at Camp Lejeune, and involvement in Desert Storm, OEF, OIF and New Dawn. It has strong backing and it is believed it will pass. John will bring more information to the next meeting for VAC to consider a resolution to support it.

Michael Robledo spoke about an article he read about a cure that may have been found for Desert Storm Syndrome with a vitamin supplement. If anybody wants more information have them contact the VA.

### **One VA**

No report

### **Chula Vista Veterans Home (CVVH)**

Nancy spoke about the CVVH quarterly meeting discussion items. New Administrator, Lael Hepworth, was there.

- A State invoice is being sent to dependents of deceased residents for unreimbursed costs.
- Discussed the Memory Care Unit. They spoke about having presented this at the County Board of Supervisors meeting. Wil Quintong added the Board feels that because of the large number of veterans here in San Diego we should have one here as well.
- CVVH had their holiday party on Thursday December 9 and it was very nice. The money raised by the Chula Vista Veterans Walk was presented to the administration that evening. The CVVH Support Foundation also donated \$25 to each resident. Other groups also donated to the home.

### **United Veterans Council (UVC)**

Mary Beth said Jack Harkins was elected the Chair of UVC at the last meeting.

### **County Veteran Service Office (CVSO)**

Wil Quintong stated that the recruitment for the Veteran Service Officer position is posted. This recruitment was filtered through Nick Macchione, Director of HHSA. This new position is going to be in charge of the Office of Military and Veteran Affairs. The Veteran Service Office and the VSO's will remain at its current location.

Wil submitted the VAC Sunset Review to the County. He updated the roster. The vacancy for the Commander Navy Region Southwest was discussed. Mary Beth said a letter was sent to Admiral Lorge, the current Commander, back in May 2014 asking for a representative to attend the meetings but no response was received.

Wil also spoke about the Veterans Resource Center in Escondido. It is scheduled to open in May-June 2015. We currently have about 18 nonprofit organizations committed to being there at certain times during the week.

Wil met with the Library Deputy Director to discuss the Vet Connect Pilot Project. A veteran can connect with a representative in the office via WebEx or other form of audio/visual

communication. A demo was done for Supervisor Jacob at the Julian library in the past and she was very impressed with it.

## **6. Community Reports**

Ted Kagan spoke about the Veterans Day celebration in East County on November 12. Said it went very well. The Mayor has declared it an annual event.

Nancy spoke about a new Coronado program, "Avenue of Heroes". This is to honor heroes from Coronado.

John Weaver spoke about the Veterans Day Parade in San Diego and said it was very well done and well received.

Ben Dillingham expressed his appreciation on serving with VAC council and staff.

## **7. Unfinished Business**

Mary Beth reminded VAC members to submit a photo for the VAC webpage or an email declining to participate.

Also reminded the 2 members of VAC whose terms are expiring in January to email the County Clerk and advise of their intentions. John Weaver added he has been in contact with the Clerk and advised that he intends to renew his term and remain as a VAC member.

## **8. New Business**

## **9. Closing Remarks**

Mary Beth wished everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.

## **10. Adjourned**

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 am